

April  
2011



TOWN OF ELLINGTON—ANIMAL CONTROL

# Spring Edition

## Is it Spring yet?

Welcome to Ellington Animal Control's second edition newsletter. Hopefully you are finding these publications to be filled with helpful information. We are happy to have this new way to educate the community and keep everyone up to date with new news. Hopefully you enjoyed the information from our first newsletter, regarding Pet Emergency Preparedness. If you did not receive a copy and would like one, please let us know. It is filled with great information about preparing you and your pets for natural disasters and other major emergencies. If you have provided the Town Clerks with an email address, while licensing your dog, you will automatically receive a newsletter. If you

do not wish to receive one, please reply back saying you wish to unsubscribe.

Our goal of the newsletters, is to bring your attention to specific topics regarding pets, livestock, and wildlife. Please let us know if there are any topics you wish for us to cover. Also, feel free to call if you have any questions regarding the information in these news-

letters.

This spring edition touches upon Animal Control news, reoccurring issues that are brought to our attention and upcoming events. We hope you enjoy this edition and look forward to the next.

Hang in there folks, it's almost spring!



## Look Us Up

Check us out on Facebook! Search for "Ellington Animal Control". Become a friend and receive information on upcoming events, animal control news, impounded animals, pets available for adoption, links to some of our

favorite websites and much more. Feel free to comment and post pictures of animals you have adopted too. Please do not file complaints here. Call us directly to ensure that we get the message.

facebook



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# New Animal Laws

## CT Tethering Law

*Prohibits unreasonable confinement and tethering of dogs.*

This law puts regulations on what you can tie your dog out with, the length, and placement, as well as making it a violation for any person to confine or tether a dog for an unreasonable amount of time. Violation of this law will result in a fine of no less than \$100 and up to \$500 for multiple offenses. This became effective as of October 1, 2010. For a copy of this law and it's exact definition, please contact us and we will send you a copy.

If you would like to become involved with legislation of state laws regarding animals, contact your local state representative.

## **No More!**



## **National News:**

### Missouri Prop B

Prop B amends Missouri law to require large-scale dog breeding operations to provide each dog under their care with sufficient food, clean water, housing and space; necessary veterinary care; regular exercise; and adequate rest between breeding cycles. The measure also prohibits any breeder from having more than 50 breeding dogs for the purpose of selling their puppies as pets and creates a misdemeanor crime of "puppy mill cruelty" for any violations.

## Relinquishing Pets

We are sad to report that there has been a significant increase in relinquished and unclaimed impounded animals. Most commonly families are giving up their loved ones due to financial hardship. The more common reason in the past two years has been financial hardship. Although it is sad, sometimes relinquishing their pets is the only answer for some people. Many shelters are overwhelmed with dogs and cats due to the economic

hard times. Unfortunately because of the overwhelming amount of displaced pets, shelters like ours have to follow procedures for taking animals in. We can never guarantee that we will be able to place a animal we take in. People must realize that a municipal animal shelter must be their last choice. Second, we do charge a fee for relinquishing your pet. This fee is based on what we will be charged to euthanize an animal. It is

disheartening, but sometimes necessary. If we don't think we have any chance of adopting something out, we will not take it in. We can not be liable for adopting an animal out, that may be a problem or dangerous.

We are happy to discuss your situation with you, offer advice, and refer you to local rescues. Please, please do not **dump** your pets. This makes for a very dangerous situation for them and IT IS

## Outdoor Cats

We receive several calls a year about stray or roaming cats. The fact of the matter is, it is almost impossible to tell if they are stray or just roaming. There is no law against roaming cats. People let there cats outside every day, sometimes all day long. There are some cats that prefer to stay in, and some that are very unhappy if they are not let out. Outdoor cats, and especially stray cats are very good at adapting to the weather and their environment. They find warm sheltered places to sleep and live and hunt food for

survival. If a cat shows up on your doorstep, it is not necessarily a stray cat. If it's owner lets it out everyday, and it knows you put food out at your back door everyday, it's going to stop by for a meal. Please feel free to call us and give a description so we can check our Lost List just in case though. This list consists of pets that people call



in missing. We will put the cat that you call about on our Found List in case someone calls their pet in missing. Sometimes we are able to match the Lost and Found, and reunite the pet and owner. We also recommend micro-chipping and/or keeping id on your cat. Many cats have been reunited with their owners because they were micro-chipped. In the event you find a severely injured cat, please call us to report it.

## Door to Door Survey

We will be conducting a door to door survey again this year, looking for unvaccinated and unlicensed dogs. It is Connecticut state law that all dogs 6 months of age or older must be licensed and vaccinated against Rabies at three calendar months old and kept up to date thereafter. Not having your animals up to date on their Rabies vaccination is a public safety issue as well as a threat to your pets.

This program is encouraged by the State of Connecticut, which offers incentives to the town for our efforts. If the survey is completed and submitted by the due date, the town is entitled to keep 60% of the dog licensing fees and pay 40% to the State of Connecticut. Otherwise, the State receives the majority of the licens-

ing fee, and the town a minimal amount.

If you have not done so yet, please license your dog in the Town Clerks office. Your dog should be at least 6 months old and up to date on it's Rabies vaccine. Please bring proof of Rabies when you go in to license. If your dog is spayed or neutered and it does not state this on your Rabies certificate, please have your vet reprint the Rabies certificate or bring in a spay/neuter certificate. Licensing is \$8 for a spayed/neutered dog, and \$19 for unaltered dogs. Licensing will be due again in June and every year after that, regardless of when you first licensed. Please call our office at (860) 870-3155 or Town Clerks office at (860) 870-3105 if you have any further questions.



## Pit Bull Epidemic

History Lesson on Pit Bulls 101: History shows that the decedents of the Pit bull breed were used for "bull baiting" over 1,000 years ago in England. By 1800, through selective breeding, the bulldog developed into a compact muscular dog characterized by tremendous jaw strength. By 1835 "bull baiting" was banned and "rattling" became the new sport. Rats would be placed into a pit and wagers were made on how many rats the dog would kill in a certain amount of time. To increase agility, quickness and prey-drive in the bulldog, ratters crossed the breed with terriers. It was the combination of the bulldog and terrier that developed the modern day "Pit Bull." Shortly after rattling, dog fighting developed. Pit bulls and dog fighting were exported to America by way of the settlers.



The population of these dogs has grown tremendously over the last several years. In turn, we are seeing more and more Pit Bulls in our shelters and in the news. Let's be honest, there is a lot of negative feedback from people when Pit Bulls are mentioned. The overpopulation and irresponsible ownership of this breed has caused, legislation to be passed against them, citywide bans on the breed, special ordinances which deem them

"dangerous" or "potentially dangerous", higher insurance premiums or no insurance coverage, automatic restraint orders, mandatory sterilization, jail time for attacks made by Pit Bulls, and in the country of England there is a ban on the breed all together. This is not to say that all Pit Bulls are bad, but this definitely proves that they have a bad rap.

Our main objective is to educate the public on the Pit Bull breed. It is extremely important to do your research with any dog, before acquiring one. The Pit Bull tends to be popular and desirable because they are very cute puppies, there is an abundance of them, and they are usually fairly inexpensive. It is important to realize that these dogs grow up to the very athletic and energetic. They must be trained and socialized starting at a young age or they can quickly become unruly and find other ways to amuse themselves, usually destructively.

Pit Bulls are not statistically the #1 biting dogs, but they are top on the list of doing the greatest amount of damage. These Pit Bull attacks are not only directed towards humans, but other animals and livestock. Some known characteristics are that they have genetic traits of unpredictable aggression, tenacity, high pain tolerance and a "hold and shake" bite style. From 2005 to 2009, Pit Bulls killed 82 Ameri-

cans and 44% of these attacks involved a family member and the family Pit Bull.

We can't tell you how many young Pit bulls have ended up in shelters across the U.S. and had to be euthanized because they were deemed unadoptable due to behavioral problems. These dogs end up in our shelters due to irresponsible ownership of the breed. When we find dogs roaming and no one claims them, we often consider them "dumped". It is especially unfortunate for the Pit Bulls because if we don't have a history on these dogs, we have to be very careful about adopting them out. Very rarely do they adjust well in a shelter/kennel environment. In fact, they often digress. In July/August 2009 issue of *Animal People*, the group estimated that of the 1,663,167 shelter dogs projected to be euthanized in 2009, pit bulls accounted for 58%. We need to stop the cycle and promote a better life for these dogs.

Responsible ownership needs to be the priority. Please be responsible and do the research on the breed before acquiring. Make sure you have the time for adequate exercise and the resources for positive training. If you adopt a Pit Bull from a shelter or rescue, ask a lot of questions and try to get as much history as you can. You must be willing to put the extra effort in to rehabilitate a rescued Pit Bull.





### ELLINGTON ANIMAL CONTROL

Physical Address: 29 Main St. (rear)  
Mailing Address: 55 Main St. Po Box 187  
Ellington, CT 06029

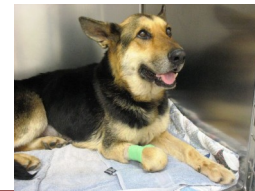
Phone: 860-870-3155  
Emergencies: 860-875-1522  
Fax: 860-870-3554

E-mail: [aleone@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:aleone@ellington-ct.gov)

<http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/CT68.html>

The Animal Control Department is responsible for the enforcement of the Connecticut State Laws pertaining to animals. This department responds to complaints of violations of Animal Control laws by telephone or police dispatch. The officers also investigate complaints of vicious, diseased, neglected or abused animals as well as picking up stray and roaming dogs. Impounded animals are cared for at the shelter by the officers. Unclaimed animals are carefully evaluated before being placed for adoption. Following the month of June, when all dog owners must renew their dog licenses, a search for unlicensed dogs begins. **The officers are available to assist the public or the police with any animal emergency.**

The Animal Control Department makes every effort to insure that all functions of this department and the operation of the shelter are carried out in the most economical manner with cost savings in mind, while providing the highest degree of professional service to the townspeople. The Animal Control Officers provide assistance to the community so that animals and people can co-exist safely and peacefully.



## Amber—The Sad Stray Shepherd

On March 23rd we picked up a German Shepherd on Fairview Ave. in Ellington. This dog was found roaming in the neighborhood, with no particular place to go. She had no collar, tags or microchip and we had no calls from anyone reporting a missing Shepherd. This poor girl was in very bad condition, emaciated with bad skin and fleas. We impounded her and placed an ad in the local paper. We began treatment for Whip worms, after seeing that she had very bad diarrhea. After almost a week, she began to show more signs of health issues. She was drinking approximately 2 gallons of water a day and was showing signs of a possible uterine infection. After being evaluated by Dr. Cleary at the Ellington Center Animal Clinic, Serena's symp-

toms quickly turned into an emergency situation. Upon examination it was clear that Serena was in fact suffering from Pyometra which is a common uterine infection in older un-spayed female dogs. A decision had to be made quickly whether to operate or euthanize. Serena's kind nature and sweet face won our hearts and the o.k. was given to go a head with the surgery. On March 31st Serena underwent surgery for a complete ovario hysterectomy to remove the infection in her uterus. She did great under anesthesia and was back on her feet and happy as could be the next day. Dr. Cleary and the staff at the Ellington Center Animal Clinic were very compassionate and helpful through the whole process. Serena definitely won the heart of everyone she

met. She is continuing to make great strides in her recovery and is looking better each day. We would sincerely like to thank all who donated towards her treatment at the clinic. The community really came together to help this sad girl. After spending more and more time with her, it is clear that we absolutely made the right decision to help her as best we could.

Shortly after her surgery, she was adopted out to a great home here in Connecticut. We receive periodic updates on her recovery and she continues to gain weight and get stronger every day. Amber now lives with three other dogs with plenty of room to play outside. She got a second chance at life and she's loving it!

## Up Coming Events

**May 7th 10-4 pm**

***Fair on the Green—Ellington***

We will be at the CERT Booth—Stop by and pickup a Emergency Preparedness packet for you pets.

**May 14th 10-3 pm (Rain Date 5/15)**

***Paws in the Park***

***Nevers Park—South Windsor***

<http://www.swjaycees.org/page8.php>

**May 2nd**

***Deadline for Tag #1 Dog License Contest***

**June 1-30th**

***Annual Dog Registration***

**Every Saturday**

***Rabies Clinic at Petco***